

Disney's
PEPPER ANN
Created by Sue Rose



Too COOL
To Be Tamed.



Old
Best
Friend



Disney's PEPPER ANN

Created by Sue Rose

Too COOL
To BE TWELVE.



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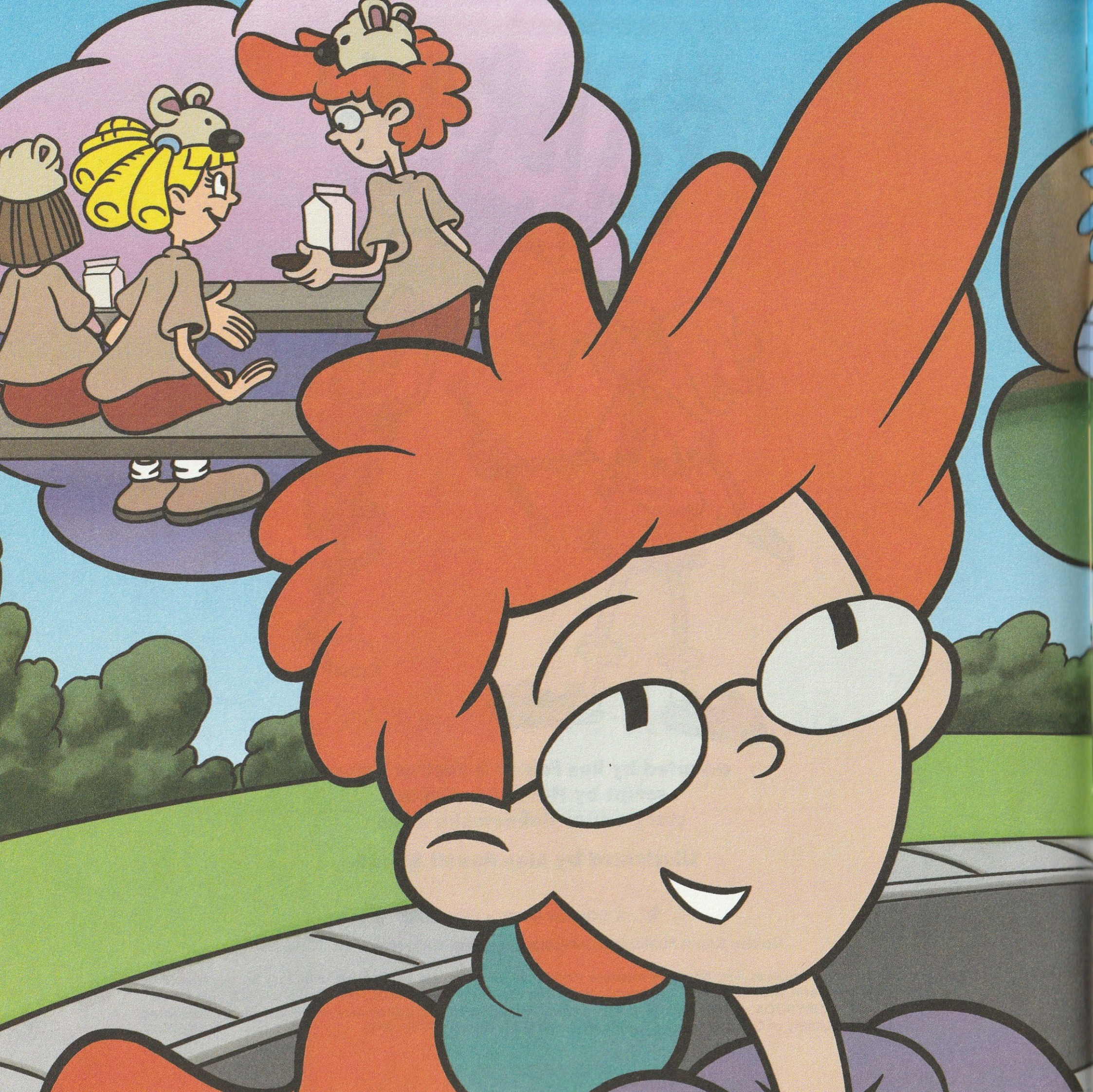


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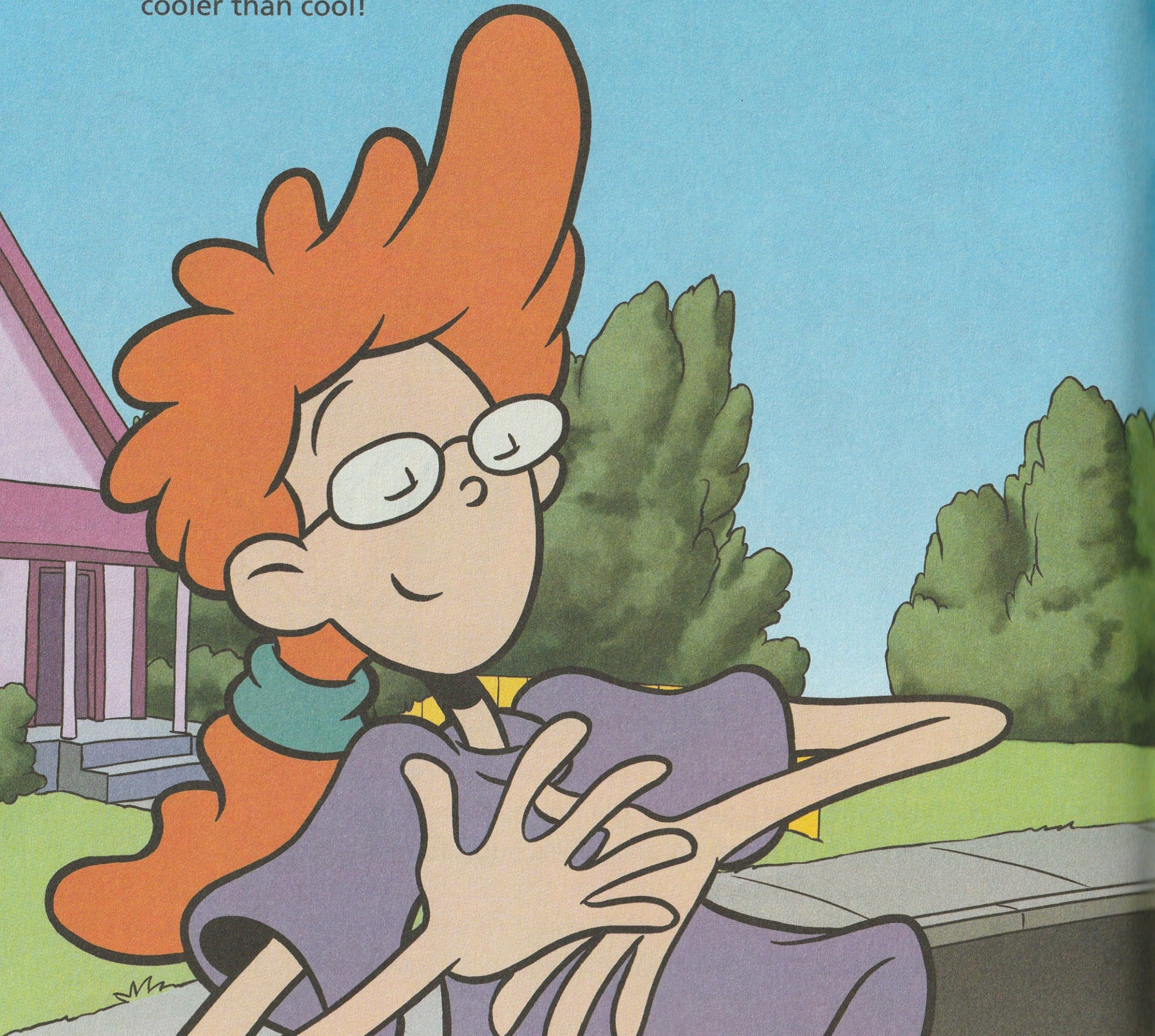




It was destined to be the worst week of my life. The older Grizzly Girls were already giving me a hard time.

Then one girl came along who changed everything. Cubby Camp was intense, but she was there for me every step of the way. We formed a bond that could never be broken. She was more than a friend—she was my Cubby Buddy, Brenda.

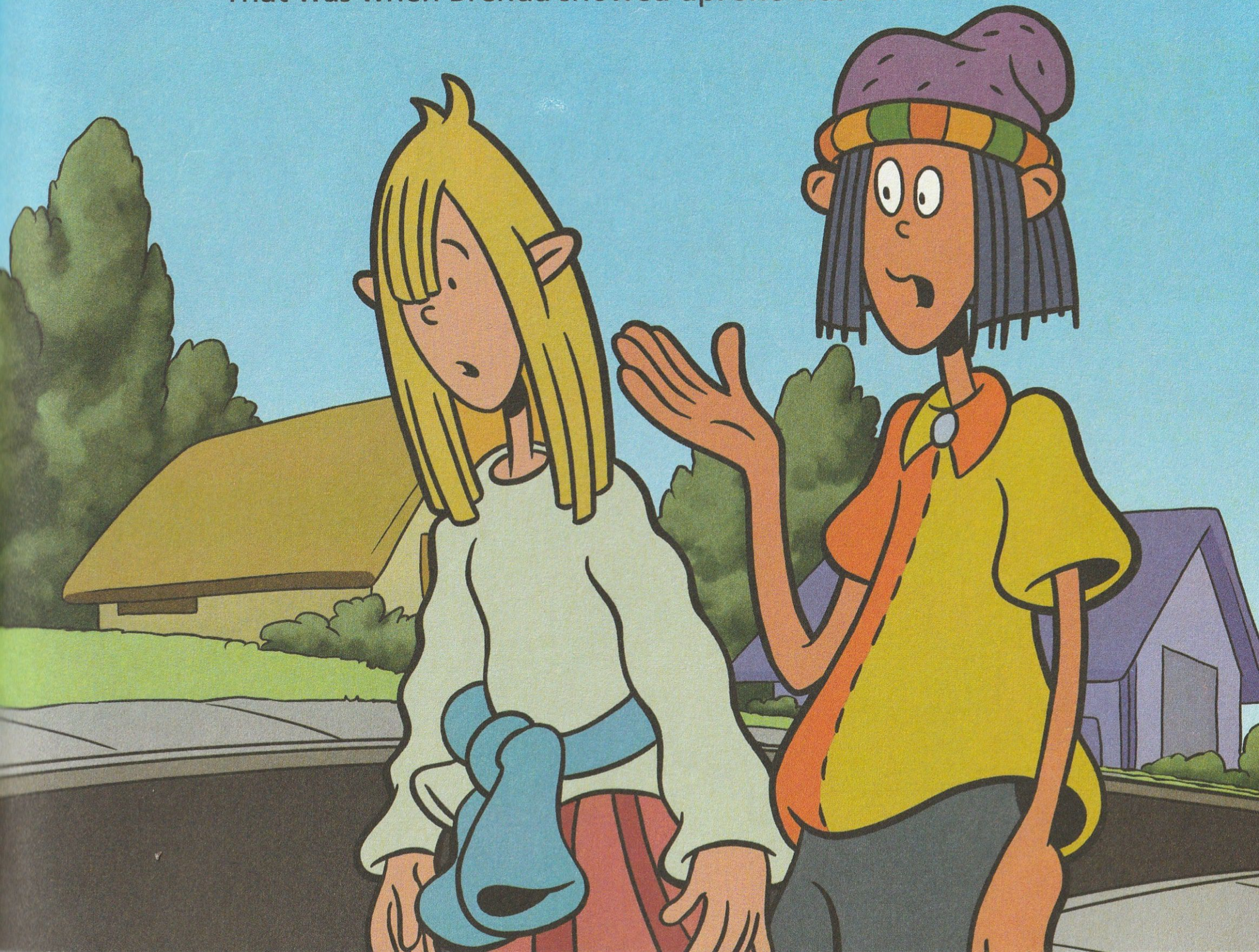
So imagine how excited I was when I found out Brenda was moving to Hazelnut. It was going to be so supreme—totally cooler than cool!



But my best friends, Nicky and Milo, weren't so sure. "What if you don't have anything in common anymore?" Nicky asked.

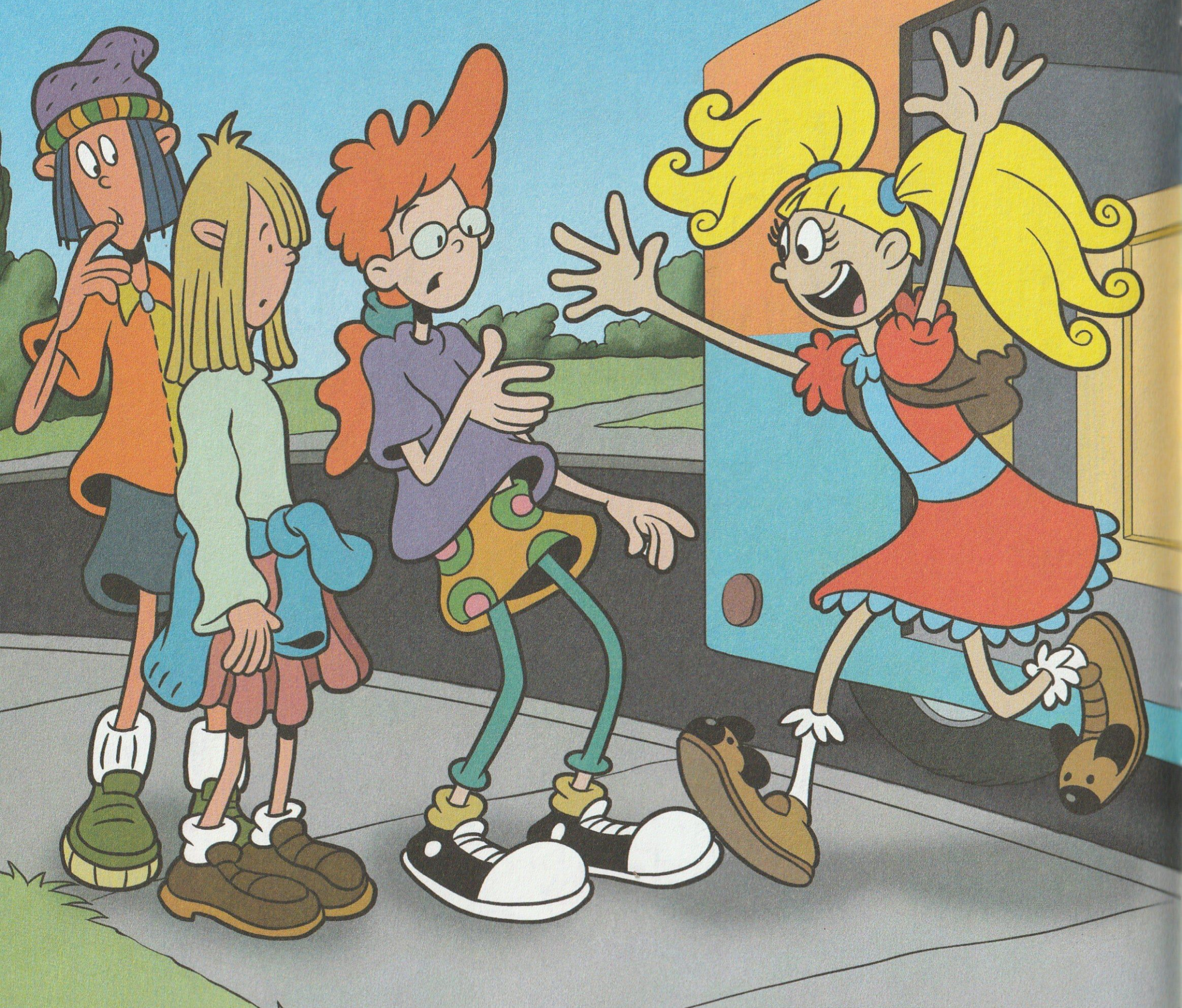
"It won't matter, because Brenda and I have agreed that if things don't work out, we'll be totally up-front and honest with each other," I said. Then I hinted, "We have a lot of catching up to do. So we might want to spend some time alone."

That was when Brenda showed up. She was . . .



... this total freak! I needed protection—fast!

"This is Nicky and Milo," I blurted. "They're going to hang around with us the whole time, okay?"

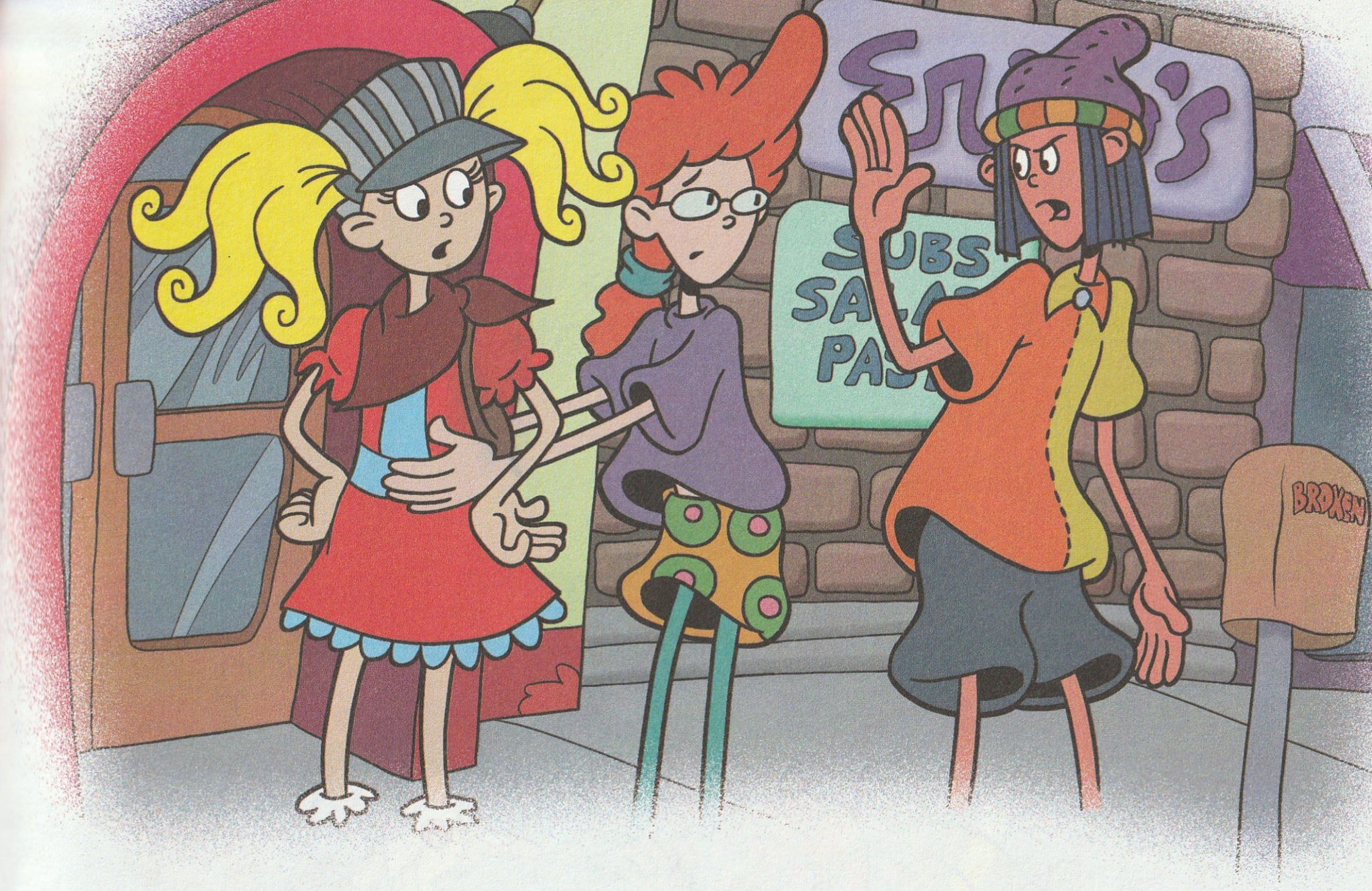


"Great! You can show me around!" Brenda put on an engineer's hat and chugged like a train. "All aboard the Brenda Express!" she shouted. "Chug-a-chug-a! Whoah! Whoah!"





I tried to show Brenda the coolest places in town.
"So," I said, "this is Hazelnut's hippest bookstore."
"Books?" groaned Brenda. "Ugh. They're just TV in boring form."
Nicky freaked. She had had just about enough of Brenda.
"Excuse me, but this boxcar's bailing here at *Boringville*," Nicky
said as she derailed.

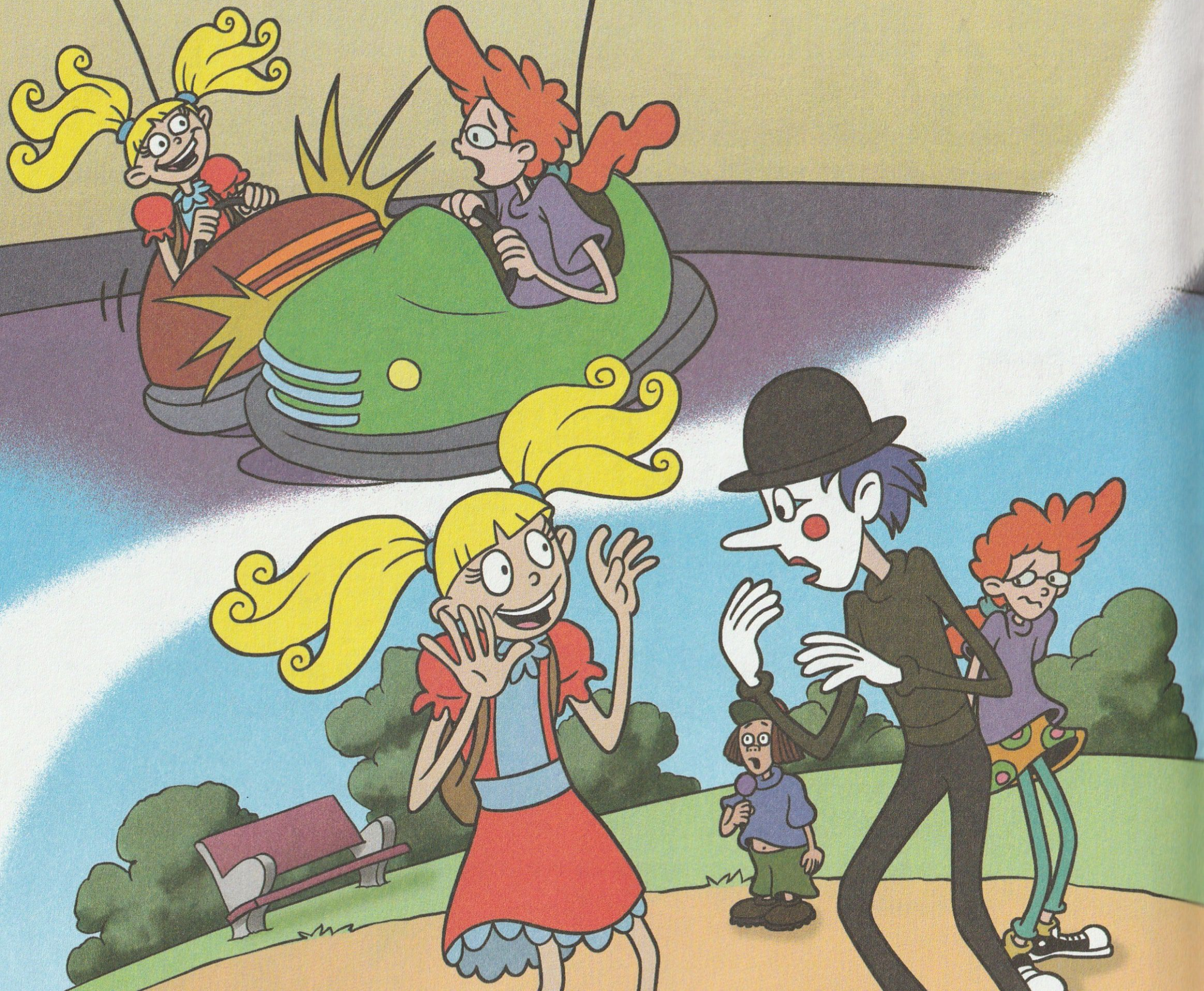


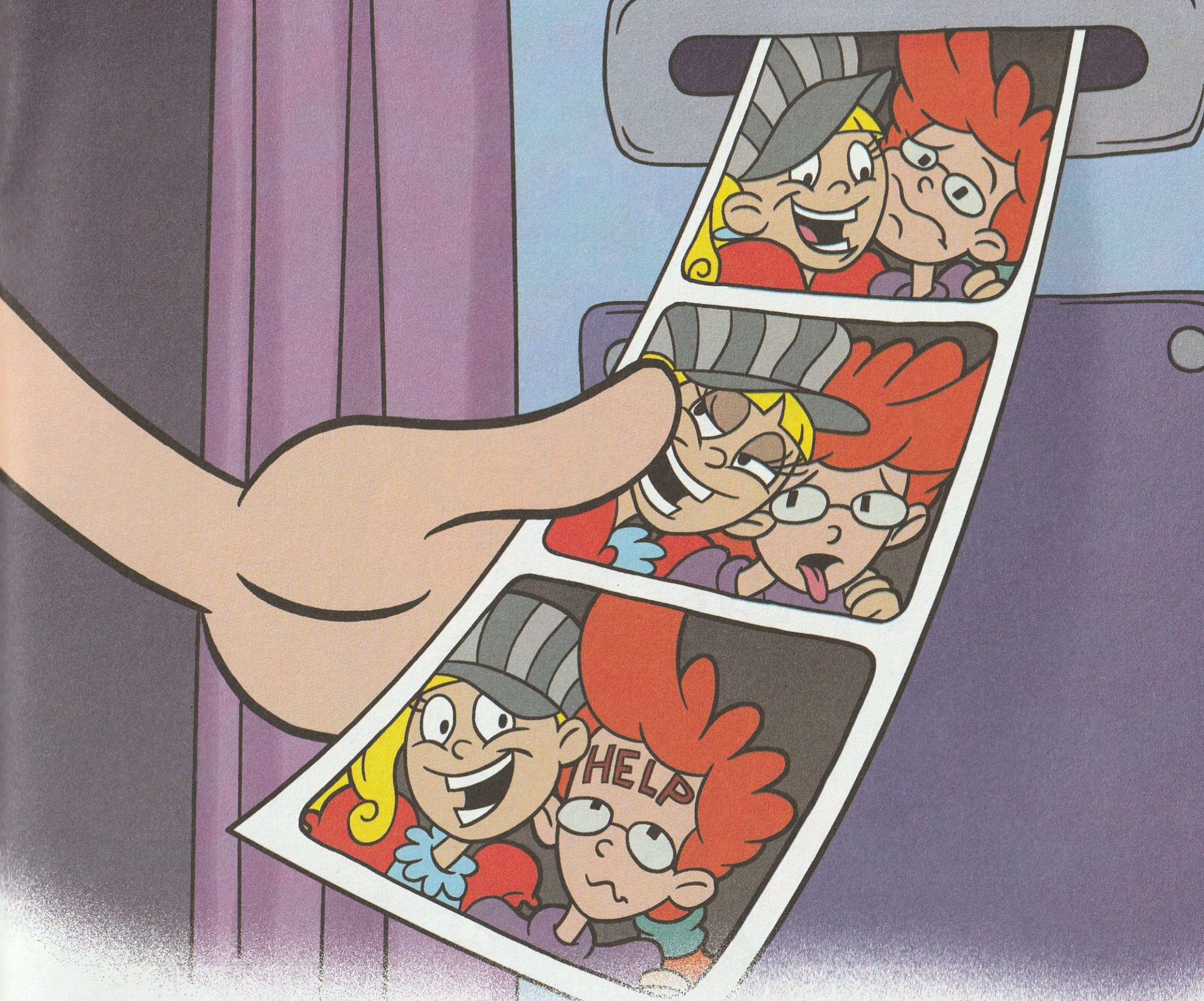
Next we headed for Hazelnut's coolest place to play Crunch Pod. "Video games?" Brenda whined. "Gee, I think I know how to waste my time for free, thanks."

Milo stopped chugging. "Later, Cubby Ann," he said. "This caboose is cuttin' loose."

How could they leave me alone with her?! I thought they were my friends!

I tried to be friends with Brenda. Really, I did. But she wanted to do one totally uncool thing after another. (She wouldn't even go to the Greezy 'n Cheezy because pizza wasn't on her diet!)



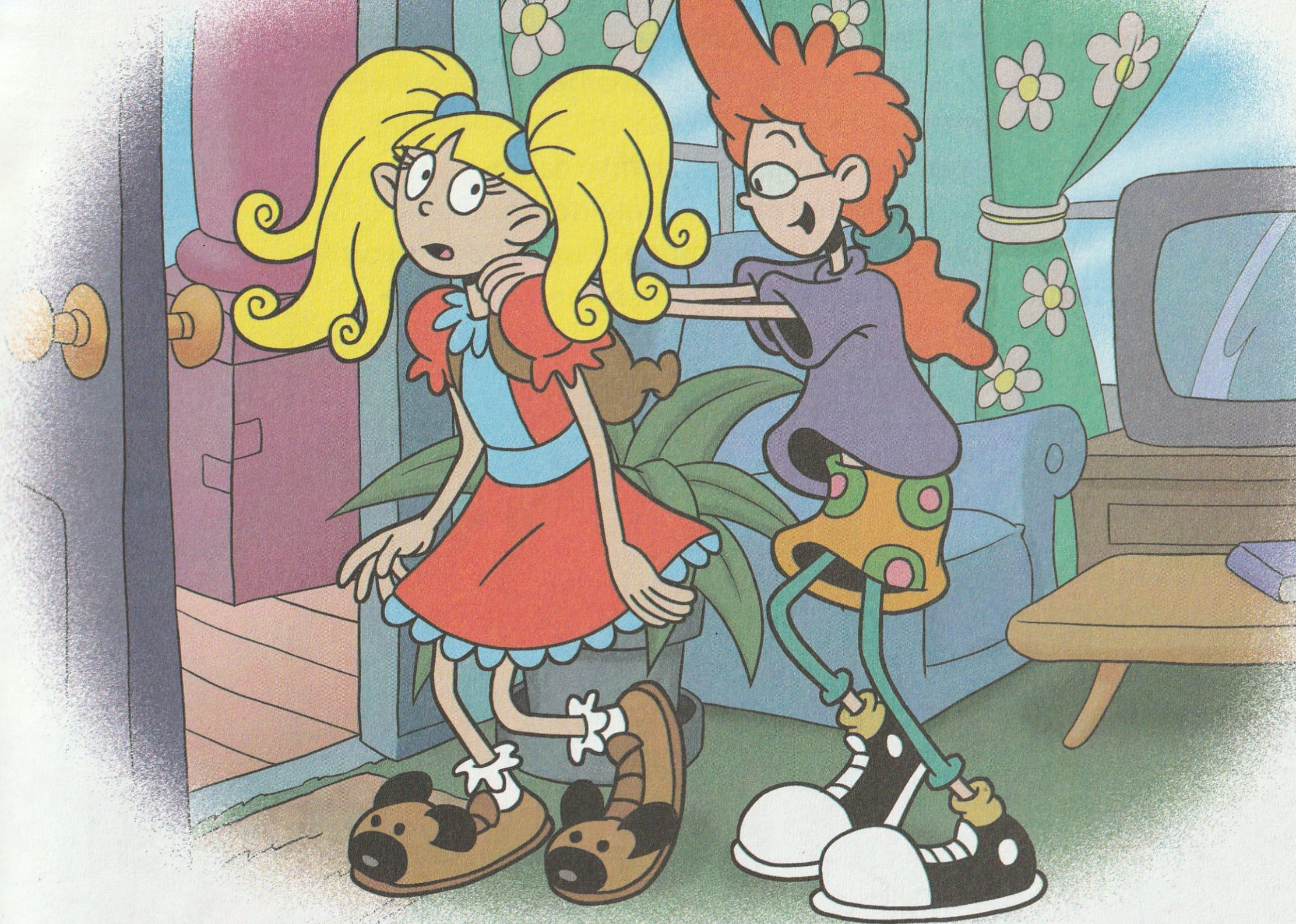


My head was spinning. Did I used to be this much of a freak?
Or had Brenda changed? And how was I ever going to get
away from her?!

"Well, this little engine better get home," I finally said. But Brenda tried to railroad me into dinner at her house. "Oh, I'd love to, but I can't," I said, thinking fast. "I've got to, uh, baby-sit Moose. Bye!"

I ran like the chicken I was. But even that didn't work! Brenda came to my house and volunteered to baby-sit my little sister with me.





"We'll braid our hair, play dollies, and stuff ourselves on Choca-Puffins! It'll be kazoodles of fun!" Brenda squealed.

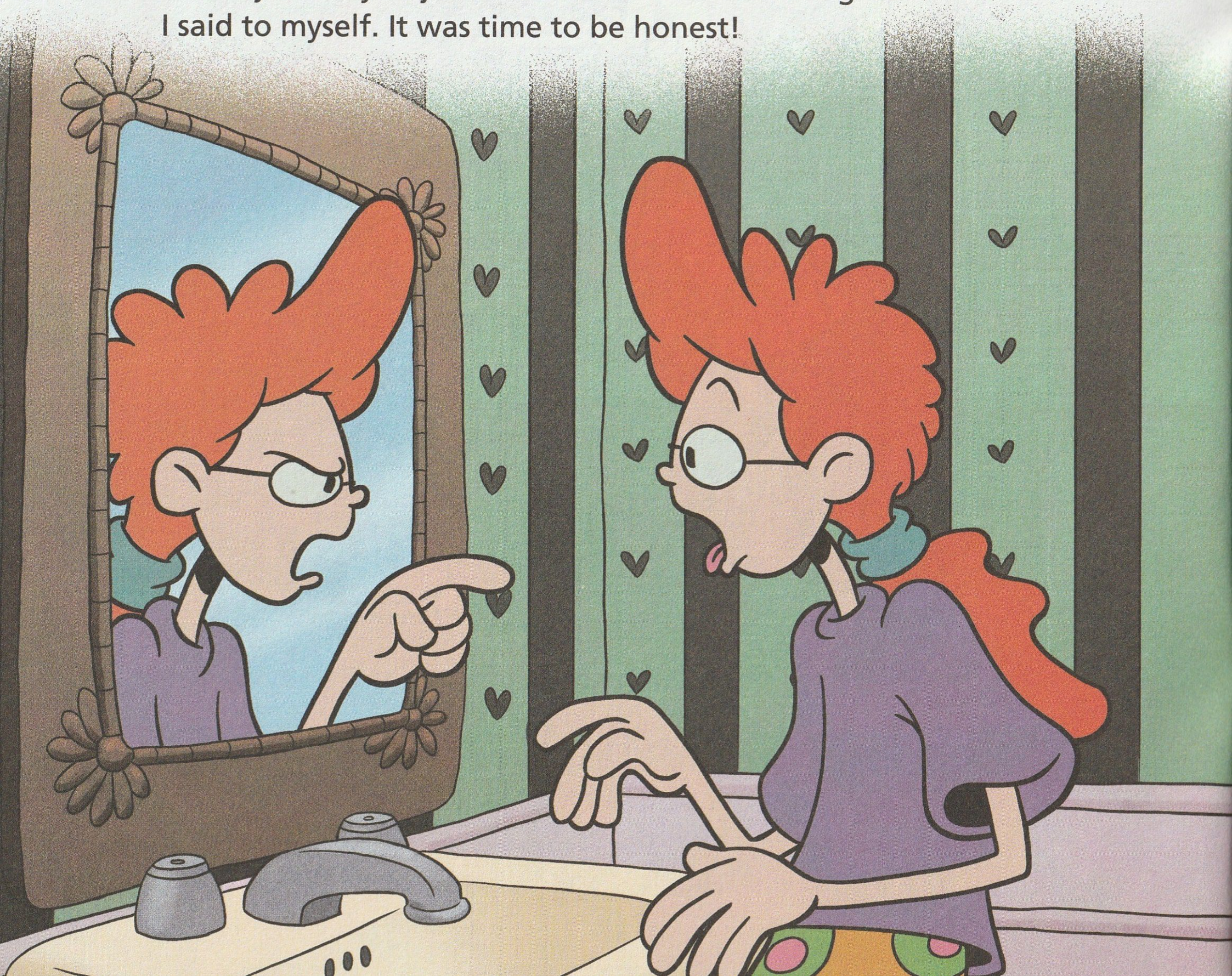
It was a nightmare! Then Moose's friend showed up, and Moose blazed out of there on her skateboard. So I steered the Brenda Express toward the door.

"I guess we'll have to baby-sit some other time," I said.

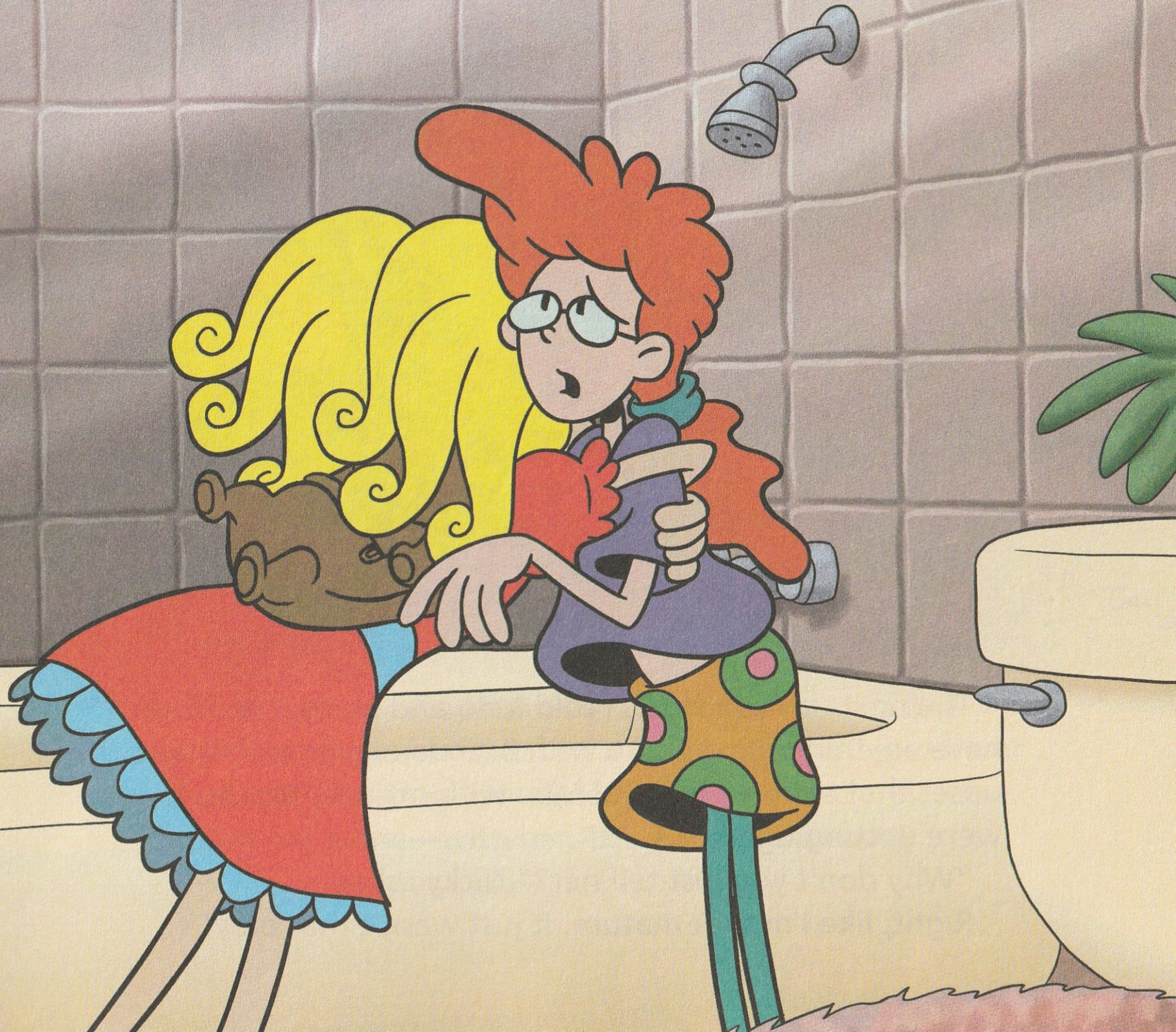
But before that train could depart, Mom came by and put on the brakes. "Why don't you two have a sleepover?" she suggested.

Brenda squealed! As she ran off to call her parents, I went into the bathroom to reflect on my doom.

"Why don't you just tell Brenda it isn't working out?" I said to myself. It was time to be honest!



Suddenly Brenda burst in, babbling about staying over.
Then I lost my nerve. (I know, totally wimpy. But it's not easy
being honest when someone says, "I hope you want me to
stay, because this friendship means everything to me!")
So Brenda stayed.
And she wasn't kidding about braiding hair. . . .





The next day at school, I told Milo and Nicky that I didn't have anything in common with Brenda anymore. I was so upset that I almost blinded Milo with my new braids. Things were getting ugly!

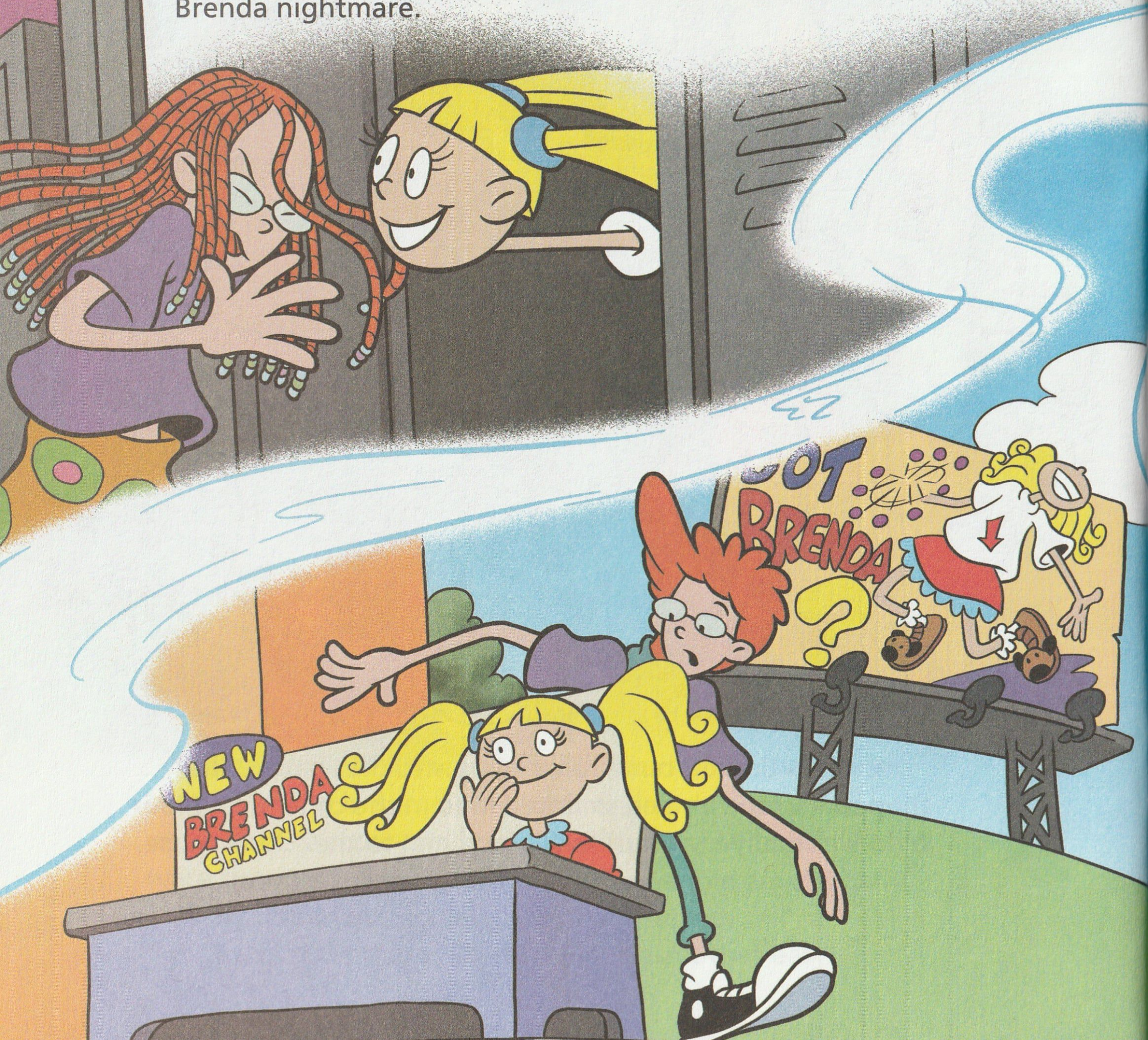
"Why don't you just tell her?" Nicky asked.

Right, like I'm that mature. It just wasn't that easy!



Just then Brenda came running up with her baton. She flipped it in the air and smacked Milo in the other eye! (Poor Milo was really hurting!) Nicky took him to the school nurse. That left me alone—with her. There was no escape!

It was like I'd entered the Brenda Zone. Everywhere I looked, there she was! It was horrible! My life had turned into a Brenda nightmare.

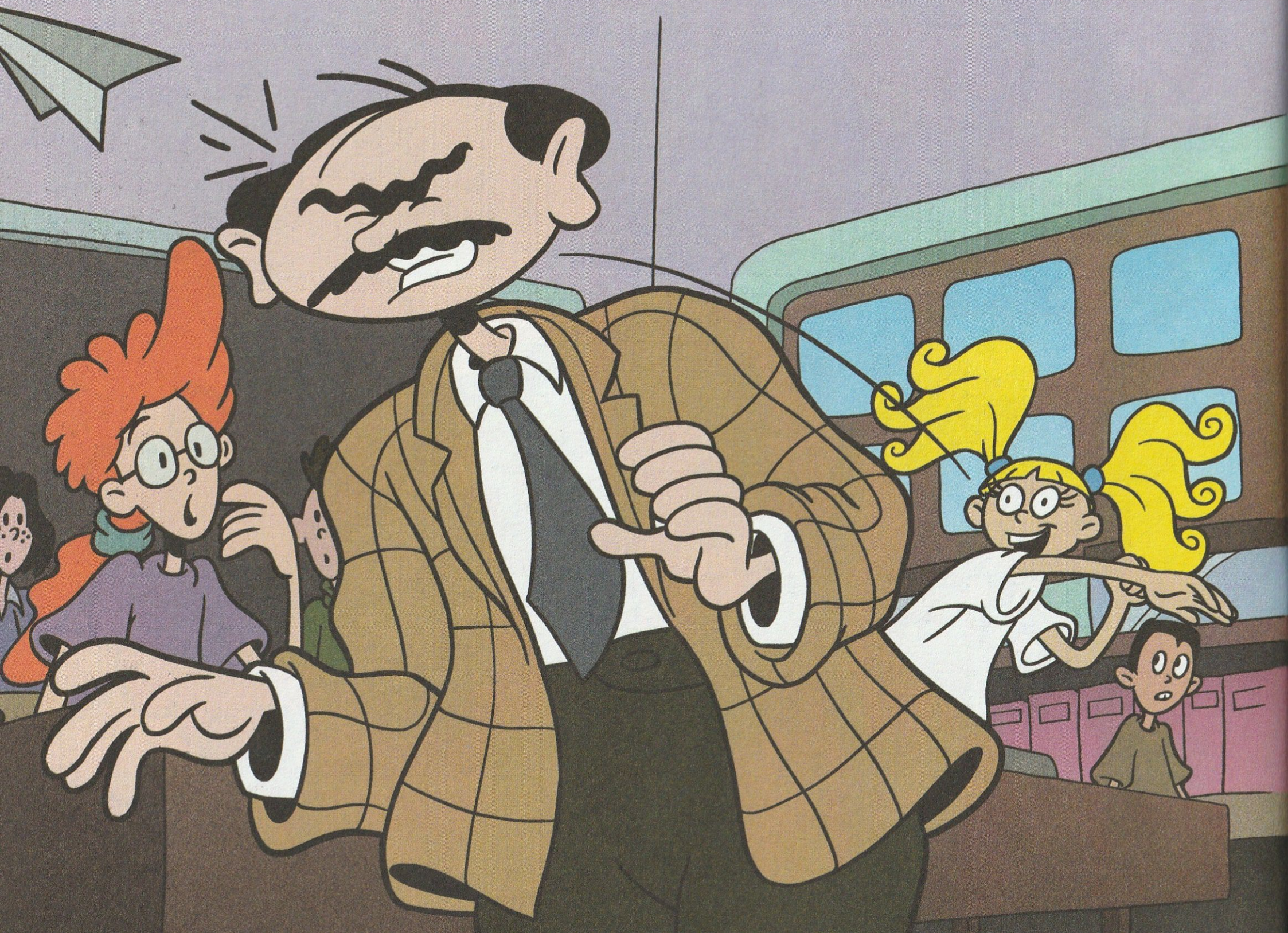




One day in class, Mr. Carter heard Brenda talking—and gave me detention. Oh, well. At least I'd have an hour away from my Cubby Buddy.

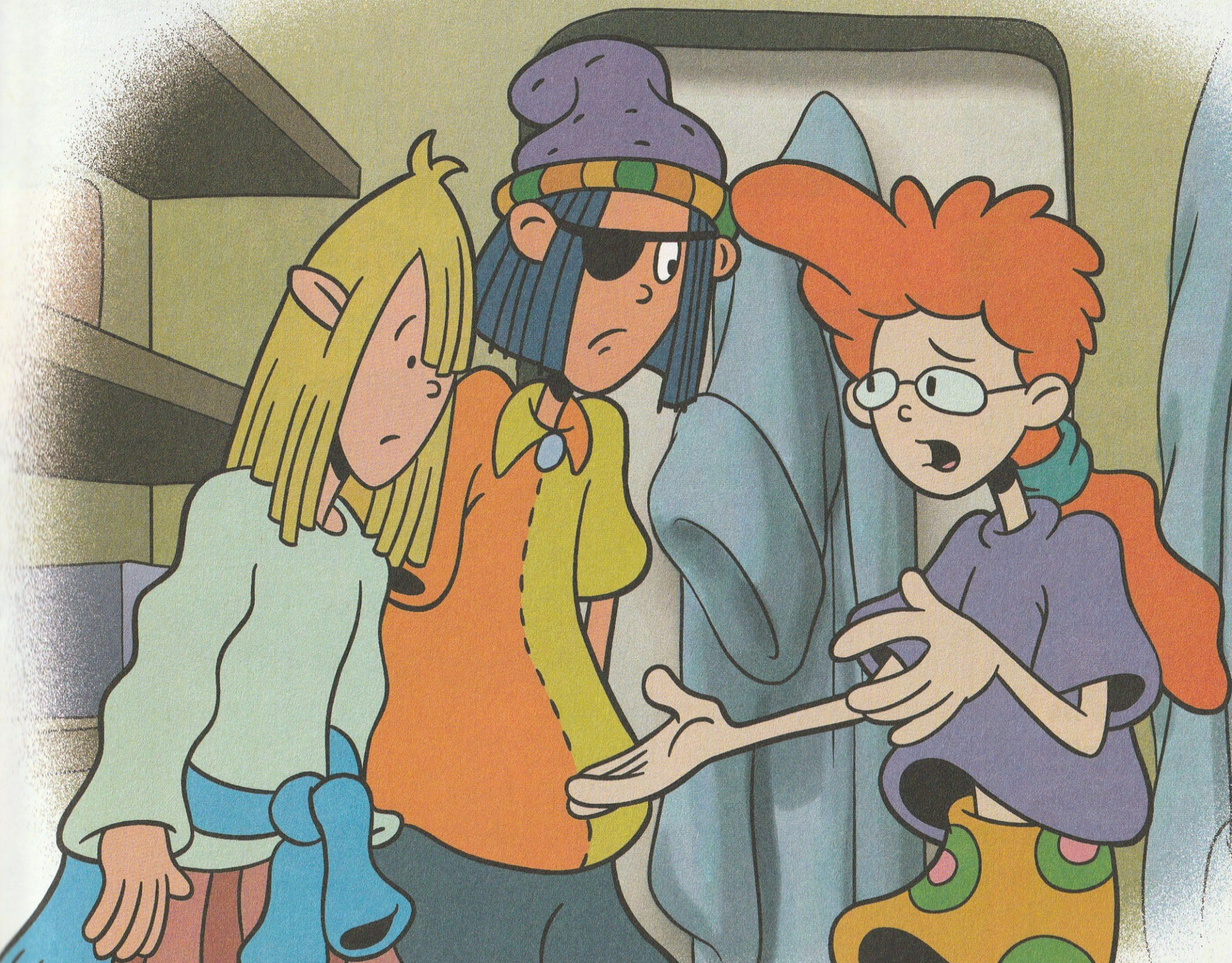
"May I have detention, too?" Brenda asked. Then she threw a paper airplane at Mr. Carter! "We'll suffer together," she assured me.

Like I wasn't suffering already!



The only thing to do was to go into hiding. I said good-bye to Milo and Nicky. "I have to hide," I explained to them. "If I don't, I'll never be alone! I can't tell you where I'm going, it'll only put you in danger. I'm gonna miss you guys."

But before I could run away, Nicky said, "Tell Brenda the truth."



I knew Nicky was right.
I couldn't run forever.

Then I saw Brenda. We both
started talking at the same time.

Brenda said, "You first."

I took a deep breath. This wasn't
going to be easy. "Okay, I—"

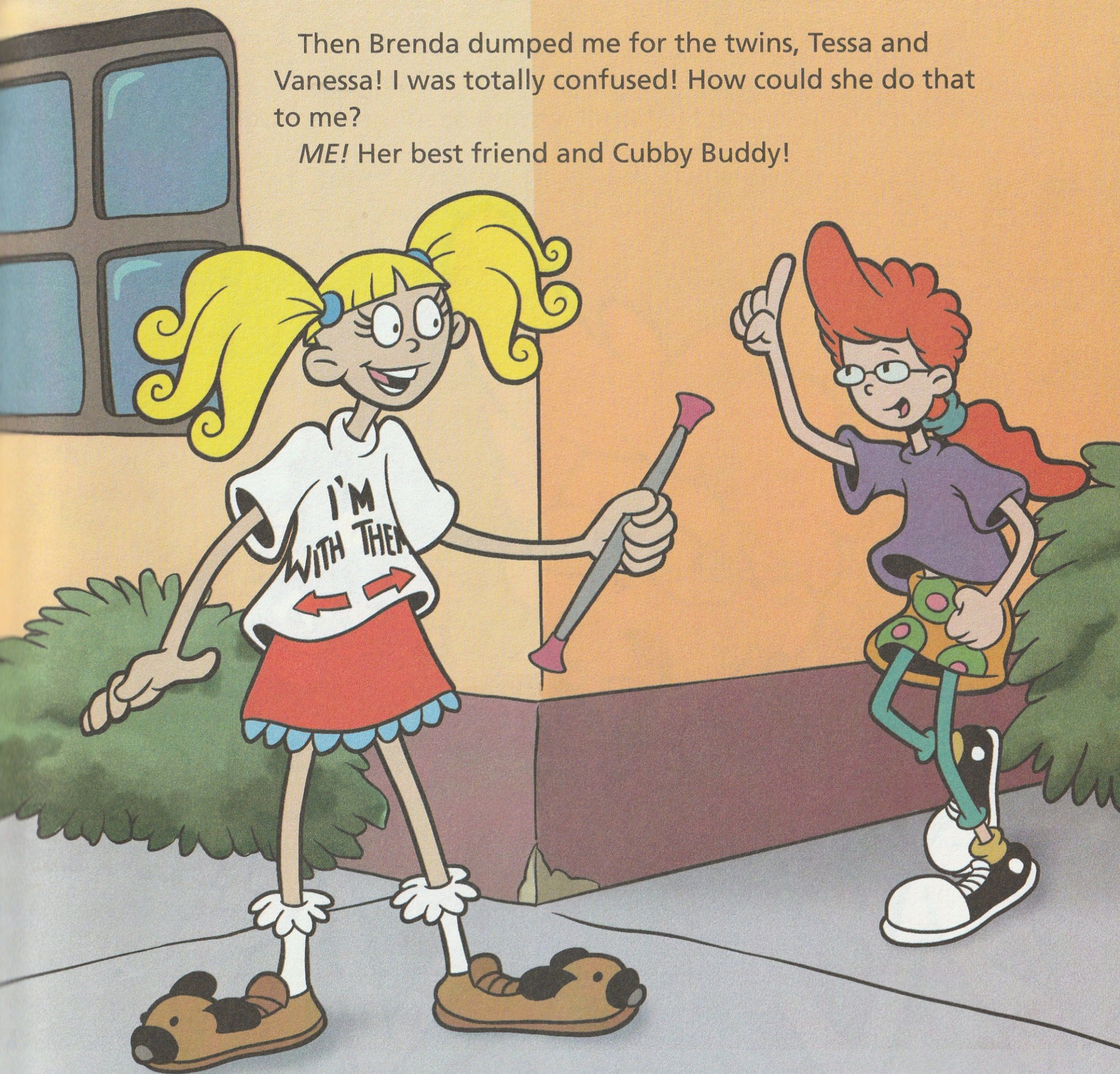
Brenda interrupted. "No, me first. I
have to be honest with you, Pepper Ann. We
just don't have anything in common any more."

I couldn't believe my ears. Brenda patted my head. "Don't feel bad.
I've grown and you've . . . changed. I've made new best friends. I hope
you understand."

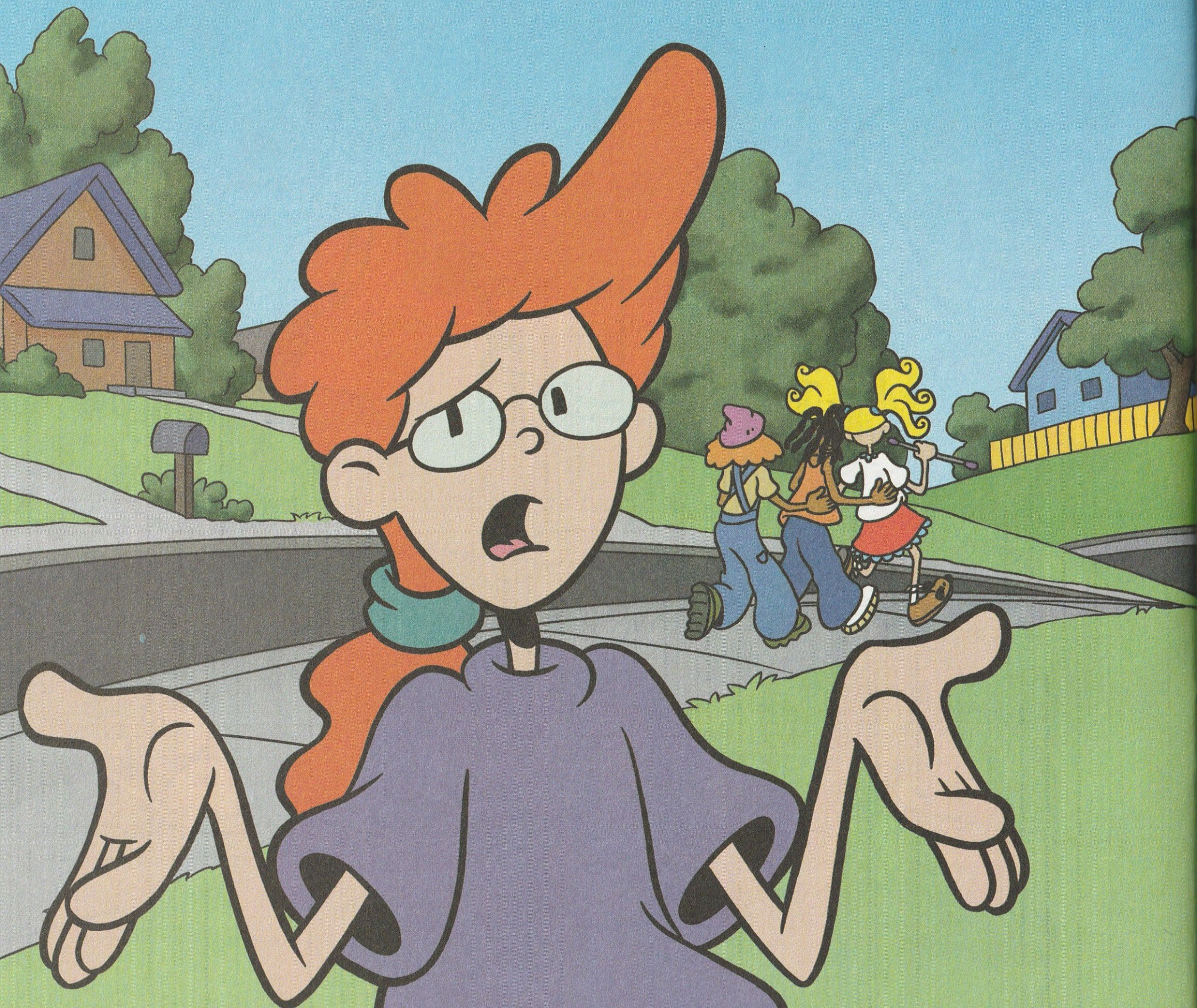


Then Brenda dumped me for the twins, Tessa and Vanessa! I was totally confused! How could she do that to me?

ME! Her best friend and Cubby Buddy!



"Good-bye, Pepper Ann," she said as she turned and walked away. "Remember, we'll always have Cubby Camp."
Can you believe that? After all we had been through together!



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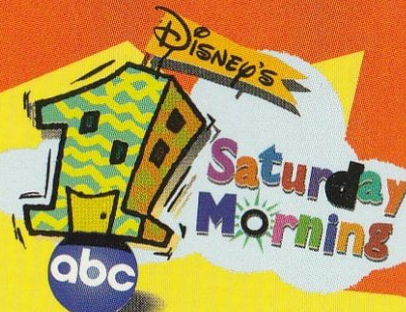
PEPPER ANN

Created by Sue Rose

Too Cool
To Do Things

Imagine how excited I
was when I found out that
my old best friend Brenda was
moving to town!

It seemed like it would be
totally cooler than cool . . .
until Brenda arrived.
Aaaggh!



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